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DPHSS Guidance Memorandum 2021-26

COVID-19 Testing, Case Investigation and Contact Tracing, Isolation, Quarantine, and Monitoring of COVID-19 Positive Individuals and Contacts in Schools

Based on Executive Order No. 2021-23, Pre-K through 12th grade school campuses are authorized to resume in-person instruction, subject to applicable DPHSS Guidance Memorandums. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to efficiently facilitate COVID-19 testing, case investigation and contact tracing in schools. A robust and responsive testing infrastructure is essential to keeping our schools safe including the layered mitigation approach.

A. POINT OF CONTACT

Schools shall identify a Point of Contact (POC), herein referred to as "School POC", to ensure compliance with this Guidance. The name of the School POC should be submitted within two weeks of the implementation of this Guidance and should be updated anytime there is a change. DPHSS shall be notified immediately of the new School POC. The School POC, or trained individual, is responsible for the following:

1. Coordinating and monitoring testing, case investigation, contact tracing, isolation, quarantine and monitoring of COVID-19 positive individuals and close contacts in collaboration with DPHSS;
2. Serving as a liaison between the school as a whole, to include students, teachers, and staff, and DPHSS to ensure efficient communication and transmission of correspondences and pertinent data; and
3. Guide the decision-making processes necessary for layered prevention strategies within the school (e.g., screening testing, physical distancing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, etc.).

B. SCREENING FOR COVID-19

1. Daily Symptom Screening/Checks
 - a. Schools shall conduct daily screening of symptoms among students, teachers, and staff to identify those who may be contagious so that measures, such as testing for COVID-19, can be taken to prevent further transmission;
 - b. Schools shall adopt a testing strategy that provides testing on a regular basis (especially to those individuals who are not fully vaccinated) and where results are reported rapidly. Furthermore, screening testing should be promoted to those students, teachers, and staff who are not fully vaccinated;
 - c. Steps should be taken to maintain confidentiality of results and protect privacy of students, teachers, and staff; and

2. Schools will be responsible for distributing and collecting consent forms for all students, teachers, and staff, consider one-time consent forms for this screening testing plan, which can be utilized throughout the academic year.
 - a. This consent form will include the purpose of testing, authorization for students, teachers, and staff to be tested, information about COVID-19 testing as well as a privacy statement;
 - b. The School POC will be responsible for maintaining the signed consent forms prior to the testing of students, teachers, and staff;
 - c. Consent forms allow for the school health counselor or designee to be notified of positive results to conduct the in-school contact tracing of positive cases;
 - d. Parents/legal guardians/authorized representatives should be informed that confirmatory testing may be needed as determined by DPHSS Containment Branch; and
 - e. In the event a parent/legal guardian/authorized representative decides to revoke consent, written and timely documentation is required and should be submitted immediately to the School POC.
3. Symptomatic Individuals

If a student, teacher or staff is identified on campus as having symptoms consistent with COVID-19 by a school health counselor, or trained individuals, the following steps should be taken:

 - a. **Students:**
 - i. The parent/legal guardian/authorized representative of the student should be informed and the student should be tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible. Efforts should be made to ensure the student is picked up by parent/legal guardian/authorized representative immediately if the test result is positive;
 - ii. If the test result is negative, the school health counselor will assess the student based on their school protocol; and
 - iii. If testing for COVID-19 occurs outside the school, the parent/legal guardian/authorized representative should notify the school of positive test results so that appropriate measures can be taken to break the chain of transmission.
 - b. **Teachers and Staff:**

Teachers and staff shall be tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible. Teachers and staff who are tested outside the school shall notify the School POC of positive test results so that appropriate measures can be taken to break the chain of transmission.

C. NOTIFICATION OF RESULT IN SCHOOLS

1. The school health counselor, or trained individuals, is responsible for notifying individuals that test positive in their school of their COVID-19 test results;
2. Once a student, teacher or staff is notified of a positive COVID-19 result, the school health counselor, or trained individuals, shall inform the School POC immediately and the COVID-19 positive individual will be advised to isolate at home or the Government of Guam Isolation Facility (ISO FAC) should the home not be conducive for proper isolation after a home assessment and endorsement is done by DPHSS, school health counselor, or

trained individuals. The School POC shall notify DPHSS of all positive COVID-19 results identified in the school; and

3. If a student, teacher or staff receives a positive result for COVID-19, the following steps should be taken:
4. Inform the individual immediately of the positive result and explain what the results mean; for minors, inform parents/legal guardians/authorized representatives;
5. Inform the individual or their parents/legal guardians/authorized representatives that staff from DPHSS, school health counselor, or trained individuals will be following-up with them to obtain information necessary to conduct case investigation and encourage the individual or their parents/legal guardians/authorized representatives to cooperate with the DPHSS staff;
6. If the positive individual has health issues, they should contact their private medical doctor to set an appointment for monoclonal antibody treatment; and,
7. The School POC shall immediately report information regarding the outcome of the notification to DPHSS.

D. A STUDENT, TEACHER OR STAFF WHO IS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO TESTED COVID-19 POSITIVE OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

1. The student's parent/legal guardian/authorized representative, teacher, or staff who was identified by DPHSS to be a close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 positive individual shall inform the School POC immediately, and must quarantine for 10 days and not report to the school site if unvaccinated;
2. Quarantine may be discontinued after day 7 if the close contact tests negative 5-7 days from last date of exposure, and if verified by DPHSS to be negative and asymptomatic; and
3. For individuals who are fully-vaccinated or who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 90 days and are asymptomatic, there is no need to quarantine; however, if vaccinated should get tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if student does not have symptoms. Isolate if test is positive for COVID-19.

E. CASE INVESTIGATION

Schools with adequate capacity to conduct case investigations may do so in coordination with DPHSS. The School POC shall notify DPHSS of all positive results, wherein DPHSS will immediately collaborate with the School POC. The following is provided to guide the case investigation:

1. DPHSS will interview the COVID-19 positive individual or the student's parent/legal guardian/authorized representative;
2. DPHSS and School POC will identify students, teachers, and staff who were potentially exposed to the COVID-19 positive individual;
3. The School POC will collaborate with school leadership to create a list of close contacts to the COVID-19 positive individual taking into account the following factors: proximity, duration of their exposure, environmental factors such as crowding and ventilation, vaccination status, prior COVID-19 infection, and mask use; and
4. School POC shall immediately inform DPHSS of the outcome of the case investigation.

F. CONTACT TRACING AND NOTIFICATION

1. DPHSS will provide a COVID-19 notification and contact tracing template to the School POC;
2. DPHSS will coordinate with the School POC to identify and prioritize contacts of the positive COVID-19 individual based on seating arrangement, class attendance, and other potential exposure settings within the school to notify contacts of their exposure to the positive COVID-19 individual and refer contacts for testing and/or clinical evaluation, as appropriate;
3. Contacts shall be advised to start quarantine once notified by the school health counselor, or trained individuals, of possible exposure and continue to quarantine until cleared by DPHSS, the School POC as designated by DPHSS; and
4. Should contacts test positive for COVID-19, they will be subject to the case investigation, isolation and monitoring procedures outlined in this Guidance.

G. FACILITY CLOSURE DETERMINATION

1. DPHSS will support and collaborate with the School POC in its efforts to determine if and what duration a school or section of the school will need to be closed for cleaning and disinfection based on CDC guidelines; and
2. School POC will follow standard practices and appropriate regulations for cleaning and disinfection of facility after a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 exposure.

H. ISOLATION, QUARANTINE AND MONITORING OF COVID-19 POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS AND CONTACTS

1. DPHSS will oversee the isolation and monitoring of COVID-19 positive individuals and quarantine and monitoring of close contacts in coordination with the School POC;
2. Students, teachers, and staff who are not identified as close contacts through case investigation by DPHSS will not be monitored and may go to school or work. Should these individuals become symptomatic, they should notify the School POC who will then coordinate with DPHSS to refer these individuals for testing and/or clinic evaluation if necessary. Individuals who test positive will be subject to the case investigation section of this Guidance; and
3. Isolation and quarantine for students, teachers, and staff may be extended until discharge criteria are met.

I. RETURN TO SCHOOL

1. Schools shall follow current DPHSS criteria for isolation and quarantine clearance utilizing the Criteria for Discharging a Person from Isolation and Criteria for Discharging a Person from Quarantine that will be provided to the School POC. Below, the forms are provided for reference; and

CRITERIA FOR DISCHARGING A PERSON FROM ISOLATION

Objective: Create isolation release criteria to minimize the infectious risk of a patient diagnosed with COVID-19 who has recovered.

Rationale: Utilize guidance from U.S. CDC to evaluate patients in isolation to determine when they have recovered and are considered safe to be released from isolation. This guidance is based on available information about COVID-19 and subject to change as additional information becomes available.

<i>Patients with mild to moderate illness who are not severely immunocompromised</i>	
SYMPTOMATIC	ASYMPTOMATIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 days (24 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and any other symptoms attributed to COVID-19 infection At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, or with recurrent symptoms, at least 10 days have passed since recurrent symptoms appeared with proper documentation of symptoms. At least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. <i>If they develop symptoms, please follow the above guidance for "persons having symptoms"</i> Test-based approach to discontinuing isolation may be considered with consultation from Chief Medical Officer or Medical Director.

<i>Patients with severe to critical illness or who are severely immunocompromised</i>	
SYMPTOMATIC	ASYMPTOMATIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 10 days and up to 20 days after symptom onset with proper documentation of symptoms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 10 days and up to 20 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Date of COVID Collection Test Date: _____

☐ Asymptomatic ☐ Symptomatic ☐ Immunocompromised/severe to critical illness

- 1) Date of Illness Onset (when symptoms started): ____/____/____
- 2) Total days since first symptoms: _____ ☐ Greater than 10 days
- 3) Date of improvement of illness: ____/____/____
- 4) Total days since improvement of illness: _____ ☐ Greater than 3 days
- 5) Total days since first positive test: _____ ☐ Greater than 10 days

* For Asymptomatic: # of days since last positive test: _____ ☐ Greater than 10 days

6) Date of COVID Test: ____/____/____ ☐ SARS-COV-2 Not Detected ☐ SARS-COV-2 Positive

7) Date of COVID Test: ____/____/____ ☐ Equal or greater than 24 hours apart
☐ SARS-COV-2 Not Detected ☐ SARS-COV-2 Positive

☐ Symptom-based release ☐ Time-based release ☐ Test-based release

____ Release Approved; issue certificate of completion: ____/____/____ Iso. evaluator: _____

Time: _____

____ Release not approved. Assessed on ____/____/____ Iso. evaluator: _____

Reason: _____

Note: Eligibility for discharge determined through telephone contact only; no physical examination of patient was conducted.

Criteria for discharging a person from Quarantine:

Objective: Safely release a person placed in quarantine after completing 10 days of quarantine period for COVID-19

Rationale: A person is placed in quarantine when they have a possible exposure to COVID-19. This could be related to travel or exposure to a positive case on-island. During the 10 days of quarantine, symptoms of COVID-19 will be monitored and the individual will avoid additional exposures by following the quarantine orders.

Criteria for Release:

- 1) During the 10-day quarantine monitoring period, they do not develop fever (measured temperature $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ or subjective fever) OR respiratory symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, sore throat).
- 2) During the 10-day quarantine monitoring period, they developed fever (measured temperature $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ or subjective fever) OR respiratory symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, sore throat):
 - a) If tested negative and fully recovered from symptoms.
 - b) If refused testing, seek clinical evaluation prior to release.
- 3) They do not experience another potential exposure to COVID-19. If another exposure occurs, then the 7-10 day quarantine period would restart.
- 4) Option to utilize the test-based approach to ending quarantine earlier by testing with a COVID-19 viral test on their 5th-7th day after last date of exposure. If verified negative and asymptomatic, they may be released on Day 8.

Person Name: _____ DOB: ____/____/____

Date of Last Risk Exposure: ____/____/____

Date of Quarantine Release: ____/____/____

During the Quarantine Period:

- ☐ Individual received a negative viral COVID-19 test 5-7 days after LDOE, and released on day 8 of quarantine.
- ☐ Individual completed 10 days of quarantine.
- ☐ Individual is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and do not have any symptoms.
- ☐ Individual did not develop any symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat. Individual complied with the quarantine order and did not have another exposure to COVID-19
- ☐ Individual developed symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat, but has met the quarantine symptomatic release criteria.

____ Release Approved; completion clearance letter: ____/____/____

Quar. Evaluator name & sign: _____ Date: ____/____/____ Time: _____

Co-Reviewer name & sign: _____ Date: ____/____/____ Time: _____

____ Release not approved due to new exposure on date: ____/____/____ Quar. evaluator: _____

____ Release pending evaluation of COVID-19 symptoms on: ____/____/____ Quar. evaluator: _____

____ Transfer into isolation: development of COVID-19 infection on: ____/____/____ Quar. evaluator: _____

2. Students, teachers, and staff will present a DPHSS isolation or quarantine clearance letter to the School POC before returning to school or work. DPHSS isolation or quarantine clearance letters may be obtained by emailing covidclearance@dphss.guam.gov.

For any questions, please contact Chima D. Mbakwem, MSHS, Chief Public Health Officer, at 671-922-2562 or email at chima.mbakwem@dphss.guam.gov.

Please join us in keeping our people and community healthy and safe.

*** SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE***

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